Signal Hill Vice Mayor Edward H. J. Wilson to Serve as President of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments

Greg Norbak, Whittier Mayor Pro-Tem Named Vice President

Edward H. J. Wilson, Vice Mayor of Signal Hill, was elected to a first term as President of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG). He was elected by acclamation by the Board of Directors at their Annual Meeting of the 27 cities of Southeast Los Angeles County held in Cerritos on June 30, 2004. Greg Norbak, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Whittier, was elected to the position of Vice President. “It is reassuring to place leadership of the COG in such capable and progressive hands at this exciting time in the organization’s history,” said Immediate Past President Frank Colonna.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Norbak will continue to direct and implement programs, including the I710 Program, Clean Air Program, Housing Strategies, Intelligent Transportation Systems Initiative, the SR 91/I-605 Needs Assessment Study and continued support for the I-5 project.

Important Meeting Notice

Since August 2004, the COG now holds monthly meetings of the Board of Directors in the City of Cerritos, on the first Wednesday of every month. Meetings are open to the public and will take place at the Cerritos Senior Center, 12340 South Street, Cerritos, CA. Meetings begin at 6:00 PM. We hope to see you there.

A Decade of Bringing Together the Powerful Voice of Local Government

Gateway Cities Council of Governments Marks 10th Anniversary

2004 marks the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the COG—and look how far we’ve come. Today, the COG represents approximately 2-million people who call this 27-city area their home. With our cities working in harmony and focusing on major issues of regional significance, we are improving the quality of life for our residents and building our economy— together. Over the last decade, we have worked together to address critical issues that cut across city boundaries—transportation, air quality, housing and economic development.

To date, the COG has been responsible for securing directly or indirectly approximately $100 million in grant money for the region. “As much progress as we’ve made in ten years, we truly feel this is just the beginning for the Gateway Cities COG,” said President Edward H. J. Wilson. “Our commitment to safe, efficient transportation, clean air and adequate housing for the region means that there is still much more work to be done,” he added.

After its founding in 1994, the COG Joint Powers Agreement was formally ratified in November, 1996 by all of its 27 member cities, the County of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach.
Creating innovative solutions to the transportation challenges facing the Gateway Cities is high atop our “to-do” list. Reducing traffic congestion and fuel emissions while improving the safety and efficiency of goods movement will help the community and the economy to thrive. The following articles are brief updates on the progress of two important Gateway Cities COG transportation programs.

### SR-91 & I-605 Needs Assessment Study

**Newly Announced Needs Assessment Will Examine Congestion**

The 91 and 605 Freeways have been identified as the next area of transportation focus, and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) will begin establishing parameters for a needs assessment aimed at identifying the SR-91 and I-605 Freeway problems and solutions. Each of the 14 cities and jurisdictions along the route of the 1710 was given the opportunity to form a local Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Additionally, a broader regional corridor level Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Tier Two, was formed.

A total of eight communities have formed Tier One CAC’s and have worked tirelessly with engineers to develop their locally preferred strategy, conducting meetings and addressing critical issues. The Tier Two Committee has emerged as a vibrant and vocal cross-section of the local community with active representation from key members of the business, environmental/public health, labor, trucking and academic communities.

**“Congestion on SR-91 and I-605 originates from the continued population growth in Southern California, the commute to and from the Inland Empire, and use by local residents, as well as large amounts of truck traffic leaving the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles,” said Greg Nordbak, COG Vice President.

The needs assessment will address a myriad of questions surrounding traffic patterns on the corridor, roadway capacity, accident history and truck traffic impacts. It will also explore the potential impact of the new 210 Freeway opening, a 710 South Pasadena gap closure, a 710 dedicated truck-lane system and the impact of 24-hour port operation, along with community concerns such as air quality, aesthetics and noise. At the end of an initial study, the communities can make an informed choice to use the results to secure regional and state funding and support to be used appropriately. Any outcomes of this study will be guided by a community based planning process. Public participation will be the hallmark of seeing solutions identified in this study.

### I-710 Major Corridor Study (MCS) - Gathering Community Input

This project’s critical public participation phase has been underway since May 2003, when the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) and its three funding partners (CalTrans, SCAG and Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) halted the technical review process to engage in an intensive community outreach program to ensure that the outcome of the study would reflect the input of local residents. Toward this end, the COG and the MTA selected professional facilitators and engineers to work with the communities to identify the I-710 Freeway problems and solutions. Each of the 14 cities and jurisdictions along the route of the I-710 was given the opportunity to form a local Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Additionally, a broader regional corridor level Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Tier Two, was formed.

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**Gateways Cities COG Open House and 10th Anniversary**

Coming Soon ~ Look For Details!

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I-710 Committees:

**Oversight Policy Committee (OPC)**

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Sub-Committees:

**Tier 1 CAC**

**Tier 2 CAC**